

REMARKS

The Official Action mailed April 23, 2003, has been received and its contents carefully noted. Filed concurrently herewith is a *Request for One Month Extension of Time*, which extends the shortened statutory period for response to August 23, 2003. Accordingly, the Applicant respectfully submits that this response is being timely filed.

The Applicant notes with appreciation the consideration of the Information Disclosure Statements filed on February 21, 2002 and May 20, 2003.

Claims 1-23 are pending in the present application, of which claims 1, 9, 11, 14, 17, 20 and 22 are independent. Claims 1, 2, 4, 6, 9, 14, 17, 20 and 22 have been amended to correct antecedent basis and minor typographical errors. For the reasons set forth in detail below, all claims are believed to be in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration is requested.

Paragraph 1 of the Official Action objects to Fig. 2 as lacking a designation such as "Prior Art." As required by the Official Action, the Applicant has amended Fig. 2 to include the designation "Prior Art," as shown in the attached replacement sheets. Reconsideration is requested.

Paragraph 2 of the Official Action objects to the specification for various informalities. In response, the Applicant has amended the specification in conformance with the suggestions provided in the Official Action.

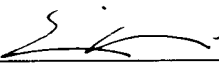
Paragraph 3 of the Official Action objects to claims 1, 2, 4, 6, 9, 14, 17, 20 and 22. In response, claims 1, 2, 4, 6, 9, 14, 17, 20, and 22 have been amended in conformance with the suggestions provided in the Official Action.

Paragraph 5 of the Official Action rejects claims 1-7, 9, 11, 12, 14, 16, 17, 19, 20 and 22 under the doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting over claims 1-7, 9-11 and 15-18 of U.S. Patent No. 6,468,200 to Zhang. Paragraph 6 of the Official Action rejects claims 8, 10, 13, 15, 18, 21 and 23 under the doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting over the combination of claims 1-7, 9-11 and 15-18 of Zhang and U.S. Patent No. 5,424,244 to Zhang et al. In response to these rejections, a *Terminal*

Disclaimer will be filed as soon as it is complete and received from Japan. Upon filing of this *Terminal Disclaimer*, the claims of the present invention will be in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the obviousness-type double patenting rejection are requested.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable to place this application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the Applicants' undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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